

Council Resolution expressing the Seattle City Council and Mayor's sympathy and condolences to Sam Smith's family and friends upon his passing, November 20, 1995. Resolution #29245, City Clerk Resolutions, 1801-09. Seattle Municipal Archives.

RESOLUTION No. _____

29245

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INDEXED

Introduced: NOV 20 1995	By: STREET
Referred: NOV 20 1995	To: CITY COUNCIL
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Filed: NOV 20 1995	Published: Title

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RESOLUTION 29245

A RESOLUTION expressing the Seattle City Council and Mayor's sympathy and condolences to Sam Smith's family and friends upon his passing and our deep appreciation for his many contributions to Seattle city government and the community.

WHEREAS, Sam Smith was born July 21, 1922, in the Louisiana woods, the son of a Baptist preacher, school teacher, and farmer; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes Sam Smith as a uniquely gifted and deeply principled man who was a Sunday school teacher, successful politician, and a mentor to up-and-coming leaders in minority communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Sam Smith became the first African-American to be elected to the Seattle City Council where he served with great distinction over a period of 24 years and as Council President for eight years; and

WHEREAS, before his service on the City Council, he provided important leadership in the civil rights movement and in 1959 became the second African-American elected to the Washington State Legislature where he served for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Sam was honored as the "Legislator of the Year" by the Young Men's Democratic Club and, in 1985, the Municipal League and the Urban League named Sam "Most Outstanding Public Official", and the Governor declared a Sam Smith Day in honor of his leadership; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith was a respected and beloved mentor and model of caring and dignity to many current and past elected officials and political leaders; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith left all of us with legendary expressions which capture essential principles of City Council operation, such as "it takes five votes to make policy" and dazzled, as well as entertained us, with his ability to cut to the heart of issues; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith set a standard of accessibility to Seattle citizens unequalled in modern times by answering his own phone with the long familiar and appreciated "this is Sam...."; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith inspired us all with his courage, perseverance, and eternal optimism overcoming incredible setbacks and still continued to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, Sam Smith was the embodiment of human dignity, caring, and compassion who once remarked about the homeless in Pioneer Square: "There but for the grace of God go I."

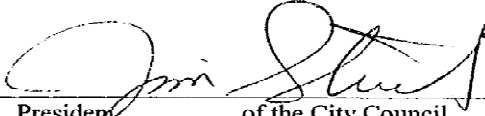
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE that the City of Seattle expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Sam Smith and in honor of Sam's many contributions to our community do proclaim the week of November 25th to December 2nd to be

Resolution
Page 2

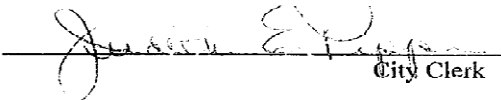
SAM SMITH MEMORIAL WEEK

in Seattle and urge all citizens to join us in recognizing the many accomplishments of this extraordinary individual.

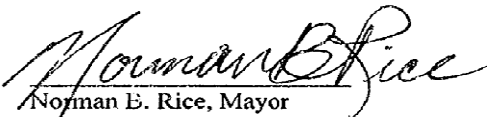
ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Seattle this 20 day of November, 1995, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 20 day of November, 1995.


President _____ of the City Council

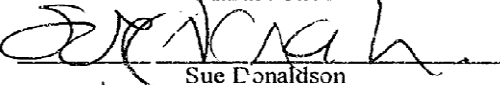
Filed by me this 20 day of November, 1995.

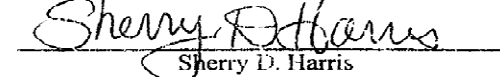

City Clerk

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:


Norman B. Rice, Mayor


Martha Choe

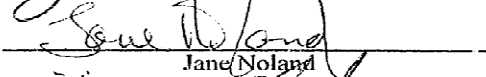

Sue Donaldson



Sherry D. Harris


Margaret Pageler


Cheryl Chow


Jan Drago


Jane Noland


Tom Weeks

(Seal)